



Minutes
City of Tempe Meeting of the Transportation Commission
September 13, 2022

Minutes of the meeting of Tempe Transportation Commission held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. via Cisco Webex and at the Tempe Transportation Center located at 200 E. Fifth Street, Tempe AZ 85281.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jeremy Browning
Susan Conklu
Brian Fellows
Alana Chavez Langdon
Bobbie Cassano
Dawn Hocking
Alice Bimrose

Pam Goronkin
David A. King
Amanda Nelson
JC Porter
Peter Schelstraete
David Sokolowski
Paul Hubbell

(MEMBERS) Absent:

John Christoph

City Staff Present:

Shelly Seyler, Deputy Engineering & Transportation Director
Robert Yabes, Principal Planner
Chase Walman, Senior Transportation Planner
Sue Taaffe, Senior Management Assistant
Eric Iwersen, Interim Sustainability & Resilience Director
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Program Manager
Keith Burke, Deputy City Manager
Julian Dresang, Deputy Engineering & Transportation Director

Bonnie Richardson, Principal Planner
TaiAnna Yee, Public Information Officer
Cathy Hollow, City Traffic Engineer
Ellie Volosin, Senior Civil Engineer
Lyle Begiebing, Transportation Planner
Brianna Fisher, Climate Action Manager
Elizabeth Thomas, Neighborhood Services Specialist
Maddie McConville, Intern

Guests Present:

John Federico
Kattie Boligitz

Addie Ascherl
Kiersten Moss

Commission Chair JC Porter called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes

JC Porter introduced the minutes of the August 9, 2022 meeting of the Transportation Commission and asked for a motion for approval.

Motion: Commissioner David Sokolowski

Second: Commissioner Pam Goronkin

Decision: Approved by Commissioners

Jeremy Browning
Susan Conklu
Brian Fellows
Bobbie Cassano
Dawn Hocking
Alice Bimrose

Pam Goronkin
Amanda Nelson
JC Porter
David Sokolowski
Paul Hubbell

Abstained: Peter Schelstraete

Agenda Item 3 – EV Ready Code Development

Brianne Fisher and Maddie McConville made a presentation about electric vehicles as they relate to possible Tempe City Code changes. Topics included:

- National and local trends
- Statewide planning efforts
- Regional and local planning efforts
- Tempe’s GHG (Greenhouse Gases) emissions
- Renewal energy
- Recommendations
- Level of readiness
- Code language development
- Cost estimates
- Methodology
- Next steps

Discussion included:

- Maricopa Association of Governments representation
- Greenhouse gases
- Incentives by local utility providers and private partnerships
- Connection with mobility hubs
- Grant money available
- Correlation with Climate Action Plan and inability to meet carbon neutrality deadlines
- Need for more funding for transit system
- City infrastructure and electric vehicles
- Focusing on multipurpose and commercial developments
- Technology
- Heavy trucks and large carbon footprint

A statement was also read by Commissioner Solokowski, and it is attached to the minutes.

Agenda Item 4 – Ash/University Intersection & 1st/Ash/Rio Roundabout Traffic Data Counts Update

Cathy Hollow and Ellie Volosin made a presentation which included collected data about the Ash/University intersection & 1st/Ash/Rio roundabout. Topics included:

- Ash and Rio traffic, bicycle and pedestrian counts in Feb. 2018
- Ash and Rio traffic, bicycle and pedestrian counts in Sept. 2022
- Ash and University traffic, bicycle and pedestrian counts in Sept. 2022

- Recent striping changes

Discussion included difficulty of bicyclists using Ash and Rio roundabout, the need for a public education campaign, and adding sharrows.

Agenda Item 5 – Crosswalk Signal Countdown & Signal Detection for Bicycles

Cathy Hollow and Ellie Volosin made a presentation about crosswalk signal countdown and signal detection for bicycles. Topics included:

- Overview
- Existing system
- New technologies
 - Bike detection indicators
 - Red light countdown lights

Discussion included the need for an educational campaign and exploring Idaho's' stop law where bicyclists yield at a stop sign and stop at a red signal then proceeding through if safe to do so.

Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Transportation Public Meetings & Announcements

Brian Fellows stated that the City of Phoenix received FHWA funds to travel to Tucson to look at bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

David Sokolowski requested that College Avenue traffic counts be added as a future agenda item. The following future agenda items have been previously identified by the Commission or staff:

- October 11
 - Annual Report
 - Grand Canal MUP
 - Public Involvement Process
 - Proposition 400E
- November 8
 - Annual Report
 - Transportation Survey Results
 - Smith Road Improvements Project
 - General Plan 2050
- December 13
- January 10
 - Commission Business
 - Streetcar Update
 - North/South Rail Spur MUP
 - Transit Security Update FY 21/22
- February 14
 - ADA Transition Plan and recently completed ADA facilities
 - Speed reduction, compliance, and tickets issued near "35 mph only when lights flashing" devices
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13

- July 11
- August 8
- September 12
- TBD: Bike Bait (once program resumes)
- TBD: Personal Delivery Devices
- TBD: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2022. The meeting was adjourned 8:40 a.m.

Prepared by: Sue Taaffe

Reviewed by: Shelly Seyler

Sept. 13, 2022

Statement by David Solokowski – Commissioner

Originally Tempe's climate action plan said "transit will be the preferred method of travel" but since then Tempe's analysis showed that we will reduce transport emissions by 90% through the adoption of EVs. even though current projections show only 30%-50% of vehicles will be electric. that means Tempe won't be able to achieve carbon neutrality through the adoption of EVs and studies on EV externalities continue to show high pollution and severe damage to eco systems world wide.

We automatically assume an increase in vehicle miles traveled but if EVs grow at 1% per year on average and VMT grows at 2% per year on average, then pollution will continue to increase for a very long time. EVs don't have tailpipes but they compound pollution based on congestion. today's power point doesn't show us how EVs will reduce emission or how long it will take to achieve carbon neutrality and Tempe's wedge analysis seems to ignore externalities.

Tthe UK science and technology commons released a report that explains it clearly.

"The Government should bring forward the proposed ban on sales of new conventional cars and vans to 2035 at the latest. This ban should explicitly cover hybrid as well as internal combustion engines. There are significant emissions associated with the manufacture of vehicles. In the long-term, widespread personal vehicle ownership does not appear to be compatible with significant decarbonization. The Government should not aim to achieve emissions reductions simply by replacing existing vehicles with lower-emissions versions.

Alongside the Government's existing targets and policies, it must develop a strategy to stimulate a low-emissions transport system, with the metrics and targets to match. This should aim to reduce the number of vehicles required, for example by: promoting and improving public transport; reducing its cost relative to private transport; encouraging vehicle usership in place of ownership; and encouraging and supporting increased levels of walking and cycling."

It looks like our city is trying to cut corners, first the city reduced transit service and now we're installing car chargers. many cities around the world are eliminating on street parking, reducing intersections, investing in renewable energy, investing in public transit, adding congestion fees, creating emission free zones, adopting open streets and planting trees.

Tempe's goal to achieve carbon neutrality will depend on how quickly we can improve our transit system. I hope Tempe will significantly increase transit funding and do everything it can to achieve an 80% transit satisfaction rating by 2024.